

7.0 WILDFIRE MITIGATION STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION

The wildfire mitigation action items provide direction on specific activities that organizations and residents in Boise County can undertake to reduce risk and prevent loss from wildfire events. Each action item is followed by ideas for implementation which can be used by local entities to pursue strategies for implementation. For the following action items, the recommended lead organization(s) is in bold font.

7.1 Update County Emergency Services Communication and Computer Support.

Ideas for implementation:

- Upgrade to a new server and computer to support county emergency services. Coordinate procurement through FEMA/Homeland security grants and/or the Western States Fire Plan. The current computer-supported county dispatch needs to be able to use updated software that will be supported. The server also needs to be updated.

Coordinating Organizations:

Boise County Commissioners

Boise County Sheriff

Boise County Fire Fighters Association
2003

Timeline:

Plan Goals Addressed:

Protect Life and Property, Partnerships
and Implementation, Emergency Services
Cost Estimate: \$10-20,000

7.2 Improve Boise County Fire and Dispatch Communications.

Ideas for implementation:

- Provide VHF-FM frequency, with a repeater for dispatch of VFDs. Coordinate repeater procurement with Western States Fire Plan grants or FEMA/Homeland Security program. Will mitigate radio communications congestion that occurs during multiple fire or law enforcement incidents and allow dispatchers to support various incident types at the same time.

Coordinating Organizations:

Boise County Commissioners

Boise County Sheriff

Boise County Dispatch

Boise County Fire Fighter Asso.

Timeline:

1 year

Plan Goals Addressed:

Protect Life and Property, Partnerships
and Implementation, Emergency Services
Cost Estimate: Below \$5,000

7.3 Develop County Dispatch Mobilization Communication Plan for cooperative assistance and for support and management of extended or multiple and complex incidents.

Ideas for implementation:

- Use examples of other emergency operations and mobilization plans as models. Develop plan that will adapt and meet the current and future needs of Boise County to meet updated requirements for County Wide Emergency Operations and provide for planned mobilization of resources within Boise County and to or from outside Boise County with an interagency/Boise County communication plan identifying mutual aid frequencies, MOUs, and dispatch/logistic centers.

Coordinating Organizations:

**BLM, U.S. Forest Service, IDL
interagency dispatch,
Boise County Sheriff
Boise County Dispatch**

Boise County Fire Chiefs
Emergency Medical Services

Timeline:

2 years

Plan Goals Addressed:

Protect Life and Property, Public
Awareness, Partnerships and
Implementation, Emergency Services
Cost Estimate: No additional cost

7.4 Establish Agreement for Emergency Use of USDA-Forest Service Radio Repeater System.

Ideas for implementation:

- Review feasibility and develop Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Boise National Forest and Boise County. Utilization of the Boise National Forest as an emergency back up system will provide County emergency services communications should the County dispatch system go down or during emergencies in areas that County radios can only hit U.S. Forest Service repeaters.

Coordinating Organizations:

**Boise County Commissioners
Boise County Sheriff
Boise County Fire Departments
Boise National Forest**

Timeline:

1 year

Plan Goals Addressed:

Protect Life and Property, Natural Systems,
Partnerships and Implementation,
Emergency Services
Cost Estimate: No additional cost

7.5 Prioritize County-wide Idaho 2003 Fire Department Survey regarding adequacy of training, PPE, communications, and equipment (refer to appendix H for Survey information).

Ideas for implementation:

- Boise County Firefighters Association to review and prioritize needs, assess abilities. Coordinate assessments with Rural Fire Protection assistance programs, federal and State.
- Priorities: Training, communications, PPE, water tenders, engines, Facilities, portable pumps., SCBA, portable tanks.

Coordinating Organizations:

Timeline:

Plan Goals Addressed:

Boise County Fire Fighters Association

2003/annually thereafter

Protect Life and Property, Partnerships and Implementation, Emergency Services

Cost estimates: Facilities- Fire Stations- 4000.Ft² \$125 per sq. ft= \$50,000 ea.

for 5 Fire Stations

PPE: Wildfire, Bunker, and SCBA- 10-20,000

Engines 5 @ \$250,000each

Brush Trucks 3 @ \$150,000 each

Communication needs: Radios, base Stations: \$30,000

Water Tender- 2000-3000 gallon \$95,000

7.6 Promote Firewise Education and Activities, coordinate activities county wide.

Ideas for implementation:

- Enlist community/development participation in firewise workshops and programs. Continue to host fire agency events (i.e., GVFD Fireman's Fund Day, and Lowman Fire Prevention) to encourage education and cooperation. Schedule educational events at schools and communities prior to and during fire season. Use County-wide coordinated cooperative effort with homeowners, County Fire Fighters, Federal and State agencies for adoption and participation in firewise community activities.

Coordinating Organizations:

Timeline:

Plan Goals Addressed:

Home Owners Associations

USDA-Forest Service

Idaho Department of Lands, Bureau of Land Management

Boise County Fire Fighters Association

Annually by July or August

Public Awareness, Partnerships and Implementation, Natural System

Cost Estimate: No hard dollar costs

7.7. Implement Hazardous Fuels Reduction Programs in Identified Developments and Communities on County-Wide Scale.

Ideas for implementation:

- Communities and subdivisions that have hazardous fuels and are at high risk will be reviewed, totaled and grant submissions submitted on a county-wide basis. Prioritization, administration, direction and implementation will be accomplished by the County.
- Communities with high risk are identified as high risk WUI watersheds, fire condition class, and on the Boise County Developments map. Fuels treatments would include, but not limited to: creating defensible space, hazard tree removal, thinning, brush removal, tree limb removal, insect damaged tree removal.
- Identify County or Community areas for slash/brush disposal, chipping and burning.
- Communities, subdivisions and homeowner associations provide fuel treatment proposals for areas within developments, coordinate development of these proposals with adjacent landowners and land management agencies for possible cost savings. Access for equipment (chippers etc.) may need to be assessed and coordinated with multiple land owners.
- Utilize cost estimates from similar projects conducted in Boise County and other Counties or lands in Idaho.

Coordinating Organizations:

Boise County

Local Communities

Homeowners' Associations

Idaho Department of Lands

Timeline:

2 years

Plan Goals Addressed:

Life, Property, Public Awareness,
Partnerships and Implementation, Natural
Systems

Cost Estimate: County Wide-\$525-\$780,000

Example from fuels project in Boise

County- equipment, personnel and disposal

or chipping- \$2000 per day= 325 project

days with \$650,000, combined or

consecutive project will realize a cost

savings. Administration cost incurred by

County should be included in cost estimates.

7.8 Establish Boise County Wildfire/Natural Disaster Council.

Ideas for implementation:

- Convene this new council with the purpose of coordinating plan implementation, updates, accomplishments, public participation, information sharing and to promote prevention activities.

Coordinating Organizations:

Boise County Disaster Services

Boise County Commissioners

Idaho Department of Lands

USDA-Forest Service

BLM

Homeowners' Associations

Boise County Fire Fighters Association

Timeline:

1 year

Plan Goals Addressed:

Public Awareness, Partnerships

and Implementation, Natural Systems

Cost Estimate: No hard dollar costs

7.9 Implement Planned 2003 Fuels Treatments on State and Federal Lands.

Implementation will be conducted by BLM, U.S. Forest Service, IDL.

- Projects are identified and described in "Prescribed Fire in Southwest Idaho, Spring and Fall, 2003." This document is available from the Bureau of Land Management, Lower Snake river District, Idaho Department of Lands, Southwest Idaho Forest Protection District, and the USDA-Forest Service, Boise National Forest.

Coordinating Agencies:

IDL, BLM, U.S. Forest Service

Timeline:

2003, weather conditions permitting, or 2004.

Plan Goals Addressed:

Natural Systems, Partnerships and

Implementation, Public Awareness

Cost Estimate: Cost incurred by State or Federal Agencies

7.10. Mitigate Hazards and Provide Protection to Identified High Risk WUI Watersheds.

Ideas for Implementation:

- State and Federal Land Managers provide priority planning efforts for fuels/wildfire hazard reduction treatments to identified high risk WUI watersheds. Treatment examples could be thinning and removal, prescribed fire, mechanical treatments, biological treatments or a combination of these treatments to mitigate hazards and decrease risks from wildfires and retaining a stable watershed.
- Priorities for these high risk WUI watersheds range from highest population in or near watersheds, to lower populations in or near the watershed. Municipal watersheds should receive highest priority. These projects will be implemented at State and Federal levels. Hazard mitigation projects must meet required environmental regulation requirements.

Coordinating Organizations:

Timeline:

Plan Goals Addressed:

BLM, U.S. Forest Service, IDL.

Highest priority watersheds – 5 years

Others – 10 years.

Property and Life, Natural Systems, Public Awareness, Partnerships.

Cost Estimate: Costs incurred by Federal and State Agencies.

7.11 Mitigate Hazards and Provide Protection to Identified High Risk Non-WUI Watersheds.

This mitigation measure will receive consideration during plan maintenance, but the timeline for this plan is to start to address the extended timeline required to prioritize high risk, non WUI watersheds.

Timeline:

Long Term, review during plan maintenance.

7.12 Establish Community/Subdivision Emergency Operations Plans.

Ideas for Implementation:

- Subdivisions, Home Owners Associations, or communities develop a Community or Subdivision “Emergency Operations Plan” for various types of emergencies, including wildfire. Emergency Operations Plan should be coordinated with Boise County Disaster Services and the Volunteer Fire Department that provides protection and County or City Law Enforcement. Local EOP should tier to the Boise County Emergency Operations Plan and be annexed by the County plan.

Coordinating Organizations:

Timeline:

Plan Goals Addressed:

HOAs, VFDs,

Boise County Disaster Services

County or City Law Enforcement

1-2 years

Life and Property, Public Awareness, Partnerships and Organization

Cost Estimate: Printing plan

7.13 Promote Defensible Space Around Residences.

Homeowners create defensible space as described in “Fire Protection Guidelines For Residential Development in the Urban-Wildland Interface – For Boise County.” Coordinate defensible space with Firewise Community recommendation, with a goal of all homes having defensible space. This recommendation is directly related to successful accomplishment of creating defensible space in communities, subdivisions, or private homes.

Coordinating Organizations:	HOAs , VFDs, private land owners
Timeline:	1 year
Plan Goals Addressed:	Life and Property, Public Awareness, Partnerships
	Cost Estimate: Volunteers, or matching dollars with developments.

7.14 Promote County Fire Protection Guidelines.

Provide future developments with Boise County Fire Protection Guidelines for Residential Development for progression to firewise communities in Boise County. Continue with development road requirements. Developments that meet the Boise County Guidelines – Fire protection, road width, ingress/egress, available water, home construction, fire resistant vegetation and defensible space should have higher value, and lower respective insurance rates.

Coordinating Organizations:	Boise County Planning and Zoning Commission
Timeline:	Boise County Firefighters Assoc. Developers Short and Long Term, update and review during plan maintenance
Plan Goals Addressed:	Life and Property, Partnerships and Organization, Public Awareness
	Cost Estimate: Dependant upon development size.